

PRE

3. Assumption; claim to notice.
Despise not these few ensuing pages; for never was any thing of this *pretence* more ingeniously imparted. *Evelyn.*
4. Claim true or false.
Spirits in our just *pretences* arm'd
Fell with us. *Milton.*
Primogeniture cannot have any *pretence* to a right of solely inheriting property or power. *Locke.*
5. *Shakespeare* uses this word with more affinity to the original Latin, for something threatened, or held out to terrify.
I have conceived a most faint neglect of late, which I have rather blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very *pretence* and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare.*
In the great hand of God I stand, and thence
Against the undivul'd *pretence* I fight
Of treas'rous malice. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
He hath writ this to feel my affection for your honour, and to no other *pretence* of danger. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- To PRETEND. *v. a.* [*pretendo*, Lat. *pretendere*, Fr.]
1. To hold out; to stretch forward. This is mere Latinity, and not used.
Lucasius, to lash his horses, bends
Prone to the wheels, and his left foot *pretends*. *Dryden.*
2. To portend; to forebode. Not in use.
All these movements seemed to be *pretended* by moving of the earth in Suffolk. *Hayward.*
3. To make any appearance of having; to allege falsely.
This let him know,
Left wilfully transgressing he *pretend*
Surprised. *Milton.*
What reason then can any man *pretend* against religion, when it is so apparently for the benefit, not only of human society, but of every particular person. *Tillotson.*
4. To show hypocritically.
'Tis their interest to guard themselves from those riotous effects of *pretended* zeal, nor is it less their duty. *D. of Piety.*
5. To hold out as a delusive appearance; to exhibit as a cover of something hidden. This is rather Latin.
Warn all creatures from thee
Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, *pretended*
To hellish falsehood, snare them. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
6. To claim. In this sense we rather say, *pretend* to.
Chiefs shall be grudg'd the part which they *pretend*. *Dry.*
Are they not rich? what more can they *pretend*? *Pope.*
- To PRETEND. *v. n.*
1. To put in a claim truly or falsely. It is seldom used without shade of censure.
What peace can be, where both to one *pretend*?
But they more diligent, and we more strong. *Dryden.*
In those countries that *pretend* to freedom, princes are subject to those laws which their people have chosen. *Swift.*
2. To presume on ability to do any thing; to profess presumptuously.
Of the ground of redness in this sea are we not fully satisfied; for there is another red sea, whose name we *pretend* not to make out from these principles. *Brown.*
- PRETENDER. *n. s.* [*from pretend*.] One who lays claim to any thing.
The prize was disputed only till you were seen; now all *pretenders* have withdrawn their claims. *Dryden.*
Whatever victories the several *pretenders* to the empire obtained over one another, they are recorded on coins without the least reflection. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*
The numerous *pretenders* to places would never have been kept in order, if expectation had been cut off. *Swift.*
To just contempt ye vain *pretenders* fall,
The people's fable and the scorn of all. *Pope.*
Pretenders to philosophy or good sense grow fond of this sort of learning. *Watts.*
- PRETENDINGLY. *adv.* [*from pretending*.] Arrogantly; presumptuously.
I have a particular reason to look a little *pretendingly* at present. *Collier on Pride.*
- PRETENSION. *n. s.* [*pretensio*, Lat. *pretentio*, Fr.]
1. Claim true or false.
But if to unjust things thou dost pretend,
Ere they begin, let thy *pretensions* end. *Denham.*
Men indulge those opinions and practices, that favour their *pretensions*. *L'Estrange.*
The commons demand that the consularship should lie in common to the *pretensions* of any Roman. *Locke.*
2. Fictitious appearance. A Latin phrase or sense.
This was but an invention and *pretension* given out by the Spaniards. *Bacon.*
- PRETER. *n. s.* [*preter*, Lat.] A particle, which prefixed to words of Latin original, signifies *before*.
PRETERIMPERFECT. *adj.* In grammar, denotes the tense not perfectly past.
- PRETERIT. *adj.* [*preterit*, Fr. *preteritus*, Lat.] Past.
- PRETERITION. *n. s.* [*preteritio*, Fr. *from preterit*.] The act of going past; the state of being past.
- PRETERITNESS. *n. s.* [*from preterit*.] State of being past; not present; not futurity.

PRE

- We cannot conceive a *preteritus* still backwards in infinitum, that never was present, as we can an endless futurity, that never will be present; so that though one is potentially infinite, yet nevertheless the other is positively finite: and this reasoning doth not at all affect the eternal existence of the adorable divinity, in whose invariable nature there is no past nor future. *Bentley's Sermon.*
- PRETERLAPSED. *adj.* [*preterlapsus*, Lat.] Past and gone.
We look with a superstitious reverence upon the accounts of *preterlapsid* ages. *Glanvill's Scep.*
Never was there so much of either, in any *preterlapsid* age, as in this. *Walker.*
- PRETERLEGAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *legal*.] Not agreeable to law.
I expected some evil customs *preterlegal*, and abuses personal, had been to be removed. *King Charles.*
- PRETERMISSION. *n. s.* [*pretermisio*, Fr. *pretermisio*, Lat.] The act of omitting.
To PRETERMIT. *v. a.* [*pretermitto*, Lat.] To pass by.
The fees, that are termly given to these deputies, for recompence of their pains, I do purposely *pretermitt*; because they be not certain. *Bacon.*
- PRETERNATURAL. *adj.* [*preter* and *natural*.] Different from what is natural; irregular.
We will enquire into the cause of this vile and *preternatural* temper of mind, that should make a man please himself with that, which can no ways reach those faculties, which nature has made the proper seat of pleasure. *South's Sermons.*
That form, which the earth is under at present, is *preternatural*, like a statue made and broken again. *Burnet.*
- PRETERNATURALLY. *adv.* [*from preternatural*.] In a manner different from the common order of nature.
Simple air, *preternaturally* attenuated by heat, will make itself room, and break and blow up all that which resisteth it. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- PRETERNATURALNESS. *n. s.* [*from preternatural*.] Manner different from the order of nature.
- PRETERPERFECT. *adj.* [*pretermittum perfectum*, Lat.] A grammatical term applied to the tense which denotes time absolutely past.
The same natural aversion to loquacity has of late made a considerable alteration in our language, by closing in one syllable the termination of our *preterperfect* tense, as *drown'd*, *walk'd*, for *drowned*, *walked*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- PRETERPLUPERFECT. *adj.* [*pretermittum plusquam perfectum*, Lat.] The grammatical epithet for the tense denoting time relatively past, or past before some other past time.
- PRETEXT. *n. s.* [*pretextus*, Lat. *pretextus*, Fr.] Pretence; false appearance; false allegation.
My pretext to strike at him admits
A good construction. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
Under this pretext, the means he sought
To ruin such whose might did much exceed
His pow'r to wrong. *Daniel's Civil War.*
As chymists gold from brags by fire would draw,
Pretexts are into treason forg'd by law. *Denham.*
I shall not say with how much, or how little pretext of reason they managed those disputes. *Decay of Piety.*
They suck the blood of those they depend upon, under a pretext of service and kindness. *L'Estrange.*
- PRETOR. *n. s.* [*pretor*, Lat. *pretor*, Fr.] The Roman judge.
It is now sometimes taken for a mayor.
Good Cinna, take this paper;
And look you lay it in the pretor's chair. *Shakespeare.*
Porphyrius, whom you Egypt's pretor made,
Is come from Alexandria to your aid. *Dryden.*
An advocate, pleading the cause of his client before one of the pretors, could only produce a single witness, in a point where the law required two. *Spectator, N° 55b.*
- PRETORIAN. *adj.* [*pretorianus*, Lat. *pretorian*, Fr.] Judicial; exercised by the pretor.
The chancery had the pretorian power for equity; the star-chamber had the censorial power for offences. *Bacon.*
- PRETTILY. *adv.* [*from pretty*.] Neatly; elegantly; pleasingly without dignity or elevation.
How prettily the young swain seems to wash
The hand was fair before. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*
One faith prettily; in the quenching of the flame of a plentiful ague, nature is like people that come to quench the fire of a house; so busy, as one letteth another.
Children, kept out of ill company, take a pride to behave themselves prettily, after the fashion of others. *Locke.*
- PRETTINESS. *n. s.* [*from pretty*.] Beauty without dignity; neat elegance without elevation.
There is goodliness in the bodies of animals, as in the ox, greyhound and stag; or majesty and stateliness, as in the lion, horle, eagle and cock; grave awfulness, as in mastiffs; or elegance and prettiness, as in lesser dogs and most sort of birds; all which are several modes of beauty.
Those drops of prettiness, scattered sprinkled amongst the creatures, were designed to defecate and exalt our conceptions, not to inveigle or detain our passions. *Locke.*
- PRETTY. *adj.* [*præ*, finery, Sax. *pretto*, Italian; *prat*, *prattig*, Dutch.]
1. Neat; elegant; pleasing without surprise or elevation.
Of these idle Greeks have many pretty tales. *Raleigh.*
They found themselves involved in a train of mistakes, by taking up some pretty hypothesis in philosophy. *Watts.*
2. Beautiful without grandeur or dignity.
The pretty gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind. *Spectator.*
3. It is used in a kind of diminutive contempt in poetry, and in conversation: as, a pretty fellow indeed!
A pretty task; and so I told the fool,
Who needs must undertake to please by rule. *Dryden.*
He'll make a pretty figure in a triumph,
And serve to trip before the victor's chariot. *Addison.*
4. Not very small. This is a very vulgar use.
A knight of Wales, with shipping and some pretty company, did go to discover those parts. *Abbot.*
Cut off the stalks of cucumbers, immediately after their bearing, close by the earth, and then cast a pretty quantity of earth upon the plant, and they will bear next year before the ordinary time. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
I would have a mount of some pretty height, leaving the wall of the enclosure breast high. *Bacon's Essays.*
Of this mixture we put a parcel into a crucible, and suffered it for a pretty while to continue red hot. *Boyle.*
A weazle a pretty way off stood leering at him. *L'Estr.*
- PRETTY. *adv.* In some degree. This word is used before adverbs or adjectives to intend their signification: it is less than very.
The world begun to be pretty well stocked with people, and human industry drained those uninhabited places. *Burnet.*
I shall not enquire how far this lofty method may advance the reputation of learning; but I am pretty sure 'tis no great addition to theirs who use it. *Collier.*
A little voyage round the lake took up five days, though the wind was pretty fair for us all the while. *Addison.*
I have a fondness for a project, and a pretty tolerable genius that way myself. *Addison's Guardian, N° 107.*
These colours were faint and dilute, unless the light was trajected obliquely; for by that means they became pretty vivid. *Newton's Opticks.*
This writer every where insinuates, and, in one place, pretty plainly professes himself a sincere christian. *Atterbury.*
The copper halfpence are coined by the publick, and every piece worth pretty near the value of the copper. *Swift.*
The first attempts of this kind were pretty modest. *Baker.*
- To PREVAIL. *v. n.* [*prevailo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, Lat.]
1. To be in force; to have effect; to have power; to have influence.
This custom makes the short-sighted bigots, and the warrier scepticks, as far as it prevails. *Locke.*
2. To overcome; to gain the superiority. With on or upon, sometimes over or against.
They that were your enemies, are his,
And have prevail'd as much on him as you. *Shakespeare.*
Nor is it hard for thee to perceive me amidst the unjust hatred and jealousy of too many, which thou hast suffered to prevail upon me. *King Charles.*
I told you then he should prevail, and speed
On his bad errand. *Milton.*
The millenium prevailed long against the truth upon the strength of authority. *Decay of Piety.*
While Malbro's cannon thus prevails by land,
Britain's sea-chiefs by Anna's high command,
Rebels o'er the Thufcan billows ride. *Blackmore.*
Thus fong could prevail
O'er death and o'er hell,
A conquest how hard and how glorious;
Though fate had fast bound her
With Styx nine times round her,
Yet musick and love were victorious. *Pope.*
This kingdom could never prevail against the united power of England. *Swift.*
3. To gain influence; to operate effectually.
4. To persuade or induce by entreaty. It has with, upon or on before the person persuaded.
With minds obdurate nothing prevails, as well they that preach, as they that read unto such, shall still have cause to complain with the prophets of old, who will give credit unto our teaching? *Hooker, b. v. f. 22.*
He was prevailed with to refrain the earl of Bristol upon his first arrival. *Clarendon.*
The serpent with me
Persuasively have so prevail'd, that I
Have also tasted. *Milton.*
They are more in danger to go out of the way, who are marching under the conduct of a guide, that it is an hundred to one will mislead them, than he that has not yet taken a step, and is likelier to be prevailed on to enquire after the right way. *Locke.*
There are four sorts of arguments that men, in their reasonings with others, make use of to prevail on them. *Locke.*

PRE

- PRETTY. *adj.* [*præ*, finery, Sax. *pretto*, Italian; *prat*, *prattig*, Dutch.]
1. Neat; elegant; pleasing without surprise or elevation.
Of these idle Greeks have many pretty tales. *Raleigh.*
They found themselves involved in a train of mistakes, by taking up some pretty hypothesis in philosophy. *Watts.*
2. Beautiful without grandeur or dignity.
The pretty gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind. *Spectator.*
3. It is used in a kind of diminutive contempt in poetry, and in conversation: as, a pretty fellow indeed!
A pretty task; and so I told the fool,
Who needs must undertake to please by rule. *Dryden.*
He'll make a pretty figure in a triumph,
And serve to trip before the victor's chariot. *Addison.*
4. Not very small. This is a very vulgar use.
A knight of Wales, with shipping and some pretty company, did go to discover those parts. *Abbot.*
Cut off the stalks of cucumbers, immediately after their bearing, close by the earth, and then cast a pretty quantity of earth upon the plant, and they will bear next year before the ordinary time. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
I would have a mount of some pretty height, leaving the wall of the enclosure breast high. *Bacon's Essays.*
Of this mixture we put a parcel into a crucible, and suffered it for a pretty while to continue red hot. *Boyle.*
A weazle a pretty way off stood leering at him. *L'Estr.*
- PRETTY. *adv.* In some degree. This word is used before adverbs or adjectives to intend their signification: it is less than very.
The world begun to be pretty well stocked with people, and human industry drained those uninhabited places. *Burnet.*
I shall not enquire how far this lofty method may advance the reputation of learning; but I am pretty sure 'tis no great addition to theirs who use it. *Collier.*
A little voyage round the lake took up five days, though the wind was pretty fair for us all the while. *Addison.*
I have a fondness for a project, and a pretty tolerable genius that way myself. *Addison's Guardian, N° 107.*
These colours were faint and dilute, unless the light was trajected obliquely; for by that means they became pretty vivid. *Newton's Opticks.*
This writer every where insinuates, and, in one place, pretty plainly professes himself a sincere christian. *Atterbury.*
The copper halfpence are coined by the publick, and every piece worth pretty near the value of the copper. *Swift.*
The first attempts of this kind were pretty modest. *Baker.*
- To PREVAIL. *v. n.* [*prevailo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, Lat.]
1. To be in force; to have effect; to have power; to have influence.
This custom makes the short-sighted bigots, and the warrier scepticks, as far as it prevails. *Locke.*
2. To overcome; to gain the superiority. With on or upon, sometimes over or against.
They that were your enemies, are his,
And have prevail'd as much on him as you. *Shakespeare.*
Nor is it hard for thee to perceive me amidst the unjust hatred and jealousy of too many, which thou hast suffered to prevail upon me. *King Charles.*
I told you then he should prevail, and speed
On his bad errand. *Milton.*
The millenium prevailed long against the truth upon the strength of authority. *Decay of Piety.*
While Malbro's cannon thus prevails by land,
Britain's sea-chiefs by Anna's high command,
Rebels o'er the Thufcan billows ride. *Blackmore.*
Thus fong could prevail
O'er death and o'er hell,
A conquest how hard and how glorious;
Though fate had fast bound her
With Styx nine times round her,
Yet musick and love were victorious. *Pope.*
This kingdom could never prevail against the united power of England. *Swift.*
3. To gain influence; to operate effectually.
4. To persuade or induce by entreaty. It has with, upon or on before the person persuaded.
With minds obdurate nothing prevails, as well they that preach, as they that read unto such, shall still have cause to complain with the prophets of old, who will give credit unto our teaching? *Hooker, b. v. f. 22.*
He was prevailed with to refrain the earl of Bristol upon his first arrival. *Clarendon.*
The serpent with me
Persuasively have so prevail'd, that I
Have also tasted. *Milton.*
They are more in danger to go out of the way, who are marching under the conduct of a guide, that it is an hundred to one will mislead them, than he that has not yet taken a step, and is likelier to be prevailed on to enquire after the right way. *Locke.*
There are four sorts of arguments that men, in their reasonings with others, make use of to prevail on them. *Locke.*

PRE

- The gods pray
He would resume the conduct of the day,
Nor let the world be lost in endless night;
Prevail'd upon at last, again he took
The harness'd steeds, that fill with horror shook. *Addison.*
Upon assurances of revolt, the queen was prevailed with to send her forces upon that expedition. *Swift.*
Prevail upon some judicious friend to be your constant hearer, and allow him the utmost freedom. *Swift.*
- PREVAILING. *adj.* [*from prevail*.] Predominant; having most influence.
Probabilities, which cross men's appetites and prevailing passions, run the same fate: let never so much probability hang on one side of a covetous man's reasoning, and money on the other, it is easy to foresee which will outweigh. *Locke.*
Save the friendless infants from oppression;
Saints shall assist thee with prevailing prayers,
And warring angels combat on thy side. *Rousseau.*
- PREVAILMENT. *n. s.* [*from prevail*.] Prevalence.
Messengers
Of strong prevailment in unhard'n'd youth. *Shakespeare.*
- PREVALENCE. *n. s.* [*prevallence*, Fr. *prevallentia*, low Lat.]
- PREVALENCY. } Superiority; influence; predominance.
The duke better knew, what kind of arguments were of prevalence with him. *Clarendon.*
Others finding that, in former times, many churchmen were employed in the civil government, imputed their wanting of these ornaments their predecessors wore, to the power and prevalence of the lawyers. *Clarendon.*
Animals, whose forelegs supply the use of arms, hold, if not an equality in both, a prevalence oft times in the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- Why, fair one, would you not rely
On reason's force with beauty's join'd;
Could I their prevalence deny,
I must at once be deaf and blind. *Prior.*
Least of all does this precept imply, that we should comply with any thing that the prevalence of corrupt fashion has made reputable. *Rogers's Sermons.*
- PREVALENT. *adj.* [*prevallens*, Lat.] Victorious; gaining superiority.
Brennus told the Roman ambassadors, that prevalent arms were as good as any title, and that valiant men might account to be their own as much as they could get. *Raleigh.*
On the foughten field,
Michael and his angels prevalent encamping. *Milton.*
The conduct of a peculiar providence made the instruments of that great design prevalent and victorious, and all those mountains of opposition to become plains. *South's Sermons.*
2. Predominant; powerful.
Eve! easily may faith admit, that all
The good which we enjoy, from heav'n descends;
But, that from us ought should ascend to heav'n,
So prevalent, as to concern the mind
Of God high-bless'd; or to incline his will;
Hard to belief may seem. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
This was the most received and prevalent opinion, when I first brought my collection up to London. *Woodward.*
- PREVALENTLY. *adv.* [*from prevalent*.] Powerfully; forcibly.
The evening-star so falls into the main,
To rise at morn more prevalently bright. *Prior.*
- To PREVARICATE. *v. n.* [*prevaticare*, Lat. *prevaticare*, Fr.] To cavil; to quibble; to shuffle.
Laws are either disannulled or quite prevaticated through change and alteration of times, yet they are good in themselves. *Spenser.*
He prevaticates with his own understanding, and cannot seriously consider the strength, and discern the evidence of arguments against his desires. *South.*
Whoever helped him to this citation, I desire he will never trust him more; for I would think better of himself, than that he would wilfully prevaticate. *Stillingfleet.*
- PREVARICATION. *n. s.* [*prevaticatio*, Lat. *prevaticatio*, Fr. *from prevaticate*.] Shuffle; cavil.
Several Romans, taken prisoners by Hannibal, were released upon obliging themselves by an oath to return again to his camp: among these was one, who, thinking to elude the oath, went the same day back to the camp, on pretence of having forgot something; but this prevatication was so shocking to the Roman senate, that they ordered him to be delivered up to Hannibal. *Addison's Freeholder.*
- PREVARICATOR. *n. s.* [*prevaticator*, Lat. *prevaticator*, Fr. *from prevaticate*.] A caviller; a shuffler.
- PREVENTIVE. *adj.* [*preveniens*, Lat.] Preceding; going before; preventive.
From the mercy-seat above
Prevenient grace descending, had remov'd
The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh
Regenerate grow instead. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
To PREVENT. *v. a.* [*prevengo*, Lat.] To hinder.
If thy indulgent care
Had not prevent'd, among unbody'd shades
I now had wander'd. *Philips.*